TO THE FREE & INDEPENDENT ELECTORS
OF THE
TECUMSETH DIVISION

My Old Friends and Neighbours:—

The time is fast approaching when you will be called upon to elect a Member to represent you in the Legislative Council of Canada; and having been enquired of by many of my old friends that in the event of my being nominated, and elected to that office by you, *would I serve?* Now, in answer to these queries, I would say that I am ready and willing to serve, to the best of my ability, in that office, and will, if so elected, use all diligence in the protection of your rights and the promotion of your welfare. As to my competency, you must, after an experience extending over a period of twenty-eight years, be the sole judges, bearing in mind that I am, in my politics, wholly and solely guided by those great principles which raised our parent State to that proud and prominent position which she now holds among the nations of the civilized world; to guard against any innovation on these principles, I do most strongly recommend that you are on the alert and try to keep clear of those designing demagogues whose great object and aim is to delude and deceive from nothing but mere sinister motives of which I feel that you are fully satisfid from every day occurrances; and as a proof of which, if proof to you were at all required, only renews the false allusions held out, and the sophistry in which they were enveloped for the purpose of obtaining the consent of many good men and true in the year 1841, to obtain what was then falsely termed the Union of the Provinces and Responsible Government; after 17 years experience, I need hardly state to you the dire result. You have every day assurances to prove that the result of that act, called the union of the Provinces, was and has been to throw us, Upper Canada, bound hand and foot into the power of a French faction, most hostile to British laws and institutions, and and differing from us in manners, language, and religion, determined enemies of true liberty and internal improvements, whose policy is to reduce this, our once noble Upper Canada, to that inanimate state in which we should at present be, had the province of Quebec never been divided; and I think that it will freely be admitted by all impartial men that that thing called Responsible Government is a total failure in accomplishing those great ends for which it was intended; it is delusive, and delusive to the best interests as freemen, and altogether inconsistent with our relations as a Colony of that greatest and freeest of nations, Great Britain.

Then to subvert all those evils, which, from our own discordant acts must befall us; we should try, and in particular on all public matters, divest ourselves of all national prejudices, religious animosity, and local bickerings, and let that measure which produces the greatest benefit to the greatest number be established—zeal and integrity, with a degree of competency be the polar star in all celections for office. We never can become a French Colony, and notwithstanding that, may that period be far distant that British North America may become an independent State; yet the English language will be that which will be retained and used until time shall be no more, and British laws, usages, and customs, will be, I hope, the rule of society; and therefore, the sooner we get rid of a foreign language, usage, and customs, the better.

And as to the reforms which parties seem to seek now-a-days, they are too ponderous to be comin an address such as the foregoing, and on that matter you shall hear from me again.

I have the honor to be,

My old friends and neighbours,

At your command,

JOHN LONGWORTH.

Goderich, 16th June, 1858.

To the Free and Independent Electors of the Tecumseth Division.

My Friends and Neighbours:—

In continuation of my address to you on the 16th inst., permit me to draw your attention to the following:

Among the many political questions that should now claim the attention of the Legislature, the most prominent seem to be, Representation by Population—no Sectarian Schools, and no separate Legislation for the different sections of the Province of Canada.

The laws bearing on these questions, as they at present exist, are evils that call most loudly for immediate reform and amendment. At the same time it ought to be remembered that the evils complained of had their beginning previous to the time the present ministry came into office, and that amongst the present ministry there are those who have strenuously opposed (and raised a party hue and cry against) them. But may it not be called a crime of crimes for such a party to have allowed partial and unjust evils to exist so long. Were the present ministry ready and willing to repeal the laws so justly complained of, to introduce them again, would be to end that government which has done nothing further for their repeal than raise an outcry against them.

It should always be borne in mind, and claim a due share of consideration, that those gentlemen who formed the government of the Province, at and immediately after the union, acted in total disregard of the rules laid down for their guidance, and in thorough contempt of all laws, usages and customs. Notwithstanding that the great object the parent state had in view, when recommending these laws was to impart a uniform tone and basis of law, language and custom.

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That such was the intention of the British government, I need only refer you to the able report of the Earl of Durham on British America, in 1839, and in particular to page 124 of that Report, which is now as much overlooked as it it never had been intended for guidance in legislating for Canada.

The line of demarcation at present between Upper and Lower Canada, is as strongly if not more discernable now than it was in 1839; and I consider that many of the French institutions of Lower Canada are now far more to the westward than during the period mentioned above. How many statutes are in force in Canada West, that have no force or effect in Canada East. One of the most cool, deliberate and glaring acts of outrage is in the administration of justice. In Great Britain where the population is above 19,000,000,—criminal justice is administered by one Attorney and one Solicitor General; and under such an administration, Life and property are secure.—

But in Canada, where the population is only about 3,000,000, we have two Attorney, and two Solicitor Generals; a circumstance that supports, upholds and keeps up a most hostile spirit of hatred and opposition to the British race. We never can become a united or a happy people, until the several lines of demarcation at present existing between Upper and Lower Canada are abolished.

Should the responsibility of representing you, fall on me, I will use my best endeavours to pro- the best interests of the Division, irrespective of locality.

I have the honor to remain,

Friends and Neighbours,

At your command,

JOHN LONGWORTH,

Goderich, 26th June, 1858.

To the Huron Signal :—

The above part of my address to the Independent Electors of the Tecumseth Division, was left at the Office of the Goderich *Times*, for insertion in that newspaper. It was, however, returned to me by one of the Board of Control, in that Office, with the following independent and impartial note, from which it would appear that none of the readers or subscribers to this one-sided, self-opinioned dictator will be allowed to express his own opinions however, much or deservedly they may claim the attention of the public :—

TIMES OFFICE, June 28th, 1858.

JOHN LONGWORTH, ESQ.

Dear Sir,—Herewith I enclose the manuscript of your second Letter to the Electors of Tecumseth. It has been persued by all connected with the *Times*, and as it is considered that we are, to a certain extent, responsible for the doctrines promulgated through our columns, we are compelled to decline its publication as a communication. It can be inserted as an advertisement, but, of course, being in opposition to the line of policy we have hitherto advocated, we should charge it as an Advertisement, which I believe is the usual course—indeed, Election Addressess are mostly charged, as in the case of Mr. Jones, who is paying regular Advertisement price for the publication of his Address.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.

E. WOODCOCK.

This note reminds me of something like a Spanish Inquisition, or of a Sergeant Major on the Private parade, when he says to the troops, everything must be done through me, and me only. Oh! what a time to live in, when honor, honesty and independence are so much forgotton. I am not aware that there is any thing in my Address to you on the 16th of June, that can in any way criminate the present Ministry. The present Ministry found on entering into office, many evils existing, and loudly complained of from the extreme length and breadth of Canada, yet how little has been done by them individually or collectively to repeal the laws complained of.

It is true that there are men to be found who know not when their own destruction is planned by designing men. There never was a more faithful public servant than Thomas Cromwell, the first Earl of Chatham, yet his life was sacrificed for the gratification of malignity, by that composition of iniquity, Henry VIII—and at this period the tracherous Cardinal Wolsey, Premier of England; was in league and correspondence with the worst enemies of Great Britain.

It is much to be deplored that the greatest evils to nations as well as a community, a wary deception—self aggrandisement, and a thorough forgetfulness of honor and honesty, still hold their sway in the minds of men. It is a fact that in the history of nations, as well as in the lives of men, there are periods of interest when well directed, insures, honor, praise, and estimation, or misapplied, entails disgrace, misery and dishonor. And there are or has been statesmen, who, by foresight and knowledge, avert national calamities. There are also statesmen, who, by indecision, vice and meanness, inflict the penelties of decline and public prostration.

The question, therefore, that may be asked by every honest and true Britain is, can Canada be longer governed for its prosperity in the manner it has been since the year 1840? I hope that I may be mistaken, when I say, that at present there are deeply laid plans for the subversion of all British rule on this continent. It is notoriously apparent that no effort is spared by the hostile party to fold around the feelings of the disaffected party the webs of delusion that are so often woven, in the unsuspected hour of public danger.

In penning the foregoing I have neither vanity to feed or malice to gratify; I am impelled by a sence of duty which I owe to my God and my fellow-men, and in particular to the land of my adoption.

You are about to select to arduous and important duties a man who will, to a limited extent, hold the destiny of Canada in his power, and on your selection the future prosperity and greatness of Canada will, in some measure, depend.

I have the honor to be,

Friends and Neighbours,

At your command,

JOHN LONGWORTH.